

WINNERS RECEIVE PRIZES

Competition of figure skaters from 14 countries for the 'Moscow News' Prize

(Continued from page 1)

The five days of the competition were held, in the main, in an exciting struggle. Talking of the struggle, we should first of all emphasize the contention of two dancing duets: Bestemyanova and Bukis, and Klimova and Ponomarenko. The former are well known, the latter made a name for themselves for the first time at the major events of the past season. In the closing day of the dancing competition they showed a different approach to the free dance. While the former made it one whole (like, for instance, did Britons Torvill and Dean), the latter chose a different way, making a dance of four parts. We must give credit to the rivals. Both pairs put their techniques, soul and heart into the performance — and even something simply inexplicable. Judging by the reaction of the audience (the Palace of Sport was packed) for many the decision of the judges to give victory to the young duo was not convincing, even though it does not lower the excellent merits of Klimova and Ponomarenko. But you cannot argue with judges.

There was again an excellent showing by Alexander Fadeyev, who took the first place in his style. Second-placed Vladimir Kutin showed fine elegance and mastery. A recent 1983 junior world titleholder Viktor Potrenko, 15, from Odessa, did well, too. His free programme, both its composition and performance, deserve scrutiny. The main thing is that he did not get confused before experienced fighters but managed to be among the top three.

Leningrad pair—Larisa Seleznyova and Oleg Makarov—this time took the pairs. The work of coaches and spouses Tanaro and Igor Muskhin is fairly noticeable in world sport. Thus, third finisher Yelena Bechko and Valery Korniyenko also represent Leningrad in Soviet sport. Yarnonika Bechko and Marat Akberov came second, and they could hardly do better at the given state of preparation. They were let down by technical inaccuracies, specifically the male partner's fall.

Kira Ivanova is equal on the podium with her fourth "Crystal Skate". A meritorious con-



Kira Ivanova (USSR).



Natalya Bestemyanova and Andrei Bukis (USSR).



Peggy Seidel-Rolf Solteri (GDR).



Brunilda Bianchi-Walter Rizzo (Italy).



Muscovite Yelena Vodorenova performs big-time sport.



Ralph Bughart (Austria).

once. She really was the strongest. The only one who could rival her was Natalya Lebedeva. And she came second ultimately. Anne Kondrasheva was third. Generally speaking, compared with the other events women's singles were below par. Perhaps it is just the start of the season. Let us not judge them severely. The season is a long one, ahead are many responsible events, and final conclusions will be drawn on the strength of them. Muscovites say good-bye to the figure skaters until next year when the jubilee, 20th "Moscow News" Prize contest will be held.



Muscovite Yelena Vodorenova performs big-time sport.

from your leaders, particularly from Bestemyanova and Bukin, Klimova and Ponomarenko.

It is my second appearance in this competition, and I hope to come here again next year, said the Italian skater, Andrea Savorgnan. I like the atmosphere of friendship in which the contests are held, and I am attracted by the opportunity of seeing many excellent figure skaters and meeting friends. It is wonderful that figure-skating federations of Italy and the Soviet Union have established strong contacts. In Italy, figure skating is not so popular, so each visit by Soviet skaters to my country is important for us. Very useful have been the training sessions and consultations which were given in Italy by such leading coaches as Tatyana Tarasova and Yelena Chelkovskaya.

This is my first competition in Moscow, and I am taking home with me the warmest feelings about the stay in your capital, the hospitality of Muscovites, and the colourful festival of figure skating, said Japanese figure skater, Kayo Iwasaki. I had no doubts about Kira Ivanova's victory, yet she met with a most stubborn rivalry from the runner-up, Natalya Lebedeva, who is well known to specialists. I think that Lebedeva has very good prospects for this season. Most of all I was impressed by the performance put in by Alexander Fadeyev and the competition among the dancing pairs. I would like very much to come here again next year for the 20th "Moscow News" Prize Competition.

The "Moscow News" Prize competitions were covered by our special correspondents Alexander BUTSENIN and Yevgeny LANFANG photos by Andrei KNYAZEV.

Peace Race-85 to start in Moscow

The Executive Committee and the International Amateur Cycling Federation Congress met in Munich to wholeheartedly support a proposal by the USSR, GDR, Polish and Czechoslovak cycling federations on holding the first three stages of the 1985 Peace Race in Moscow to mark the 40th anniversary of victory over Nazism.

The association of organizers of international events has selected the world's best cyclist for the past year. The title prize was awarded to noted Czechoslovak road racer, Jiri Slezak. Soviet cyclist Sergei Sukhobchankov, Ivan Malchukov and Sergei Kopylov also won prizes in various years.

DECISIONS OF IOC SESSION

A session of the International Olympic Committee was held in Lausanne which was devoted to discuss difficulties arisen in recent years in the Olympic movement.

Confirming the loyalty to its principles written into the Olympic Charter, the participants recognized that national Olympic committees will retain the right to take decisions on participation in the Games in a way consistent with the Charter. The proposal on taking sanctions against the committees refusing entry to the Games was voted down. As for the invitation to the Games, it will now come from the IOC, and replies to the national committees will be sent to the IOC. No changes were made in the time set aside for sending applications to the Games attendance.

SPORTSMEN LOSE IN THE END

Several US firms and representatives of various groups of local powers have started local action against the Los Angeles Olympic Organizing Committee on charges of fraud and financial manipulations, the local press reports. A nasty example, they say, is infectious. Following the organizing committee, a financial adventure was undertaken, too, by the US National Olympic Committee. It was reported at the recent conference of the US Olympic Congress in San Diego.

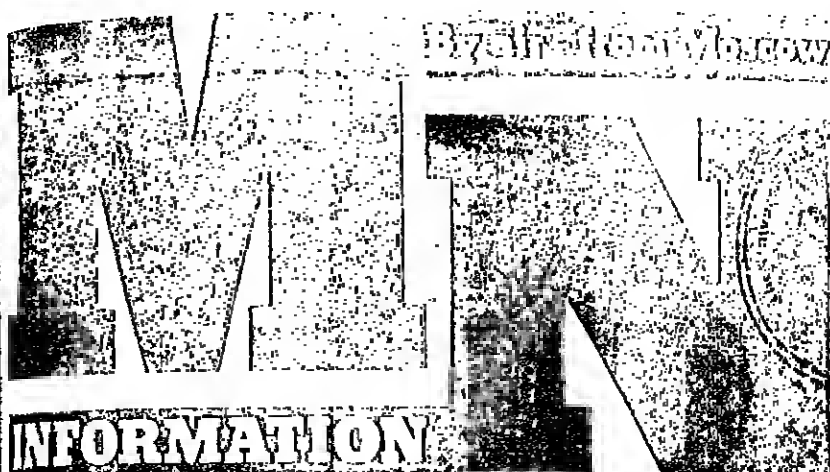
During a meeting with journalists it was stressed the National Olympic Committee got a large sum of money from the Los Angeles Olympic Organizing Committee in the form of deductions from profits of American and international companies, who made such profits on the Summit Games. This on the Summit Games for money was allegedly spent in the development of sport in the country but the NOC leadership decided to put the money in the bank at high interest.



EDITORIAL BOARD

Address: 14/7, Gorky St. Moscow, USSR.
Printed: Tuesday and Saturday.
Published: Tuesday and Saturday.
Index: 1987.

Address: 14/7, Gorky St. Moscow, USSR.
Printed: Tuesday and Saturday.
Published: Tuesday and Saturday.
Index: 1987.



No. 87 (612), DECEMBER 15-17, 1984

Price 5 kopeks

Soviet consumer co-operators maintain working links with their counterparts in 50 countries

The 11th Congress of representatives of the USSR's consumer and social organizations with membership of over 60 million shareholders, was recently held in Moscow. In its message to the congress the USSR Central Committee stressed that consumers' cooperation is an important part to play in carrying out the plans for the country's economic and social development.

A sales network of consumer co-operators accounts for a quarter of the entire turnover of Soviet retail trade. In daily taking part in the work of all the consumers' co-operators, the USSR Central Committee stressed that the leading bodies, periodically listening to their reports on checking on their work, millions of shareholders pick up their habits. In the USSR, consumer cooperation has the right to legislative initiative to the Soviet state at all levels, takes part in discussing and solving key political, economic and social problems.

The congress also discussed international activity of Soviet co-operators — active fighting for peace and mutual understanding. Today they maintain close relations with 170 organizations and firms of 50 countries and make a major contribution to the work of the International Cooperative Alliance.

Soviet proposal to Japan

Japan. The Soviet-Japanese economic cooperation committee held their 9th joint meeting in Tokyo. Their participants exchanged views on the state of the prospects for the development of trade and economic relations between the two countries.

In their communiqué, the delegates stated that the cooperation in economic and social fields on the basis of both the USSR and Japan, the mutually beneficial structures of their economies, and their geographic proximity create favorable conditions for further development of trade and economic relations. The participants of the meeting confirmed their desire to expand these relations on the basis of equality and mutual benefit.

Looking to make bilateral relations more stable, the Soviet delegates proposed that an agreement be reached between the Soviet and Japanese governments on the principles of economic cooperation and a long-term program for this cooperation be signed.

Round the Soviet Union

● THE EXPANSES OF THESE OCEANS — THE ATLANTIC, INDIAN AND THE PACIFIC — WILL BE OVERCOME BY A NEW SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH SHIP, "ACADEMICIAN LAVENTIEV" WHICH HAS EMBARKED ON A JOURNEY FROM RIGA (A BALTIC CITY). The scientific expedition will undertake hydrological, hydrophysical and other observations. Together with them is a group of specialists from Finland who jointly with their Soviet colleagues, will carry out tests on

deep underwater apparatuses and instruments manufactured in that country. The scientific journey will conclude in Vladivostok next April.

● A NEW NAME, IOSHKAROLA, HAS APPEARED ON THE MAP OF THE STARRY SKIES. The name of the capital of the Mari Autonomous Republic (within the Russian Federation) has been given to a minor planet of the Seler System which until now had the ordinal number, 2910. The dedication was taken by the International Planetary Center in Cambridge, USA, on the suggestion of Soviet scientists. This name was approved in connection with the 400th anniversary of the city.



The people of Nicaragua now live to full combat readiness. The Government of National Reconstruction has taken emergency measures in the face of the threat of US armed aggression. A detachment of patriots. ● A soldier of a radio communication session.

Order of Lenin for Academy of Medical Sciences

At a ceremony in the Hall of Columns of the Trade Unions House (Moscow) the USSR Academy of Medical Sciences (USSR AMS) was presented with the Order of Lenin. The Academy won this high award for its contribution to the advancement of medical sciences and public education. The award was addressed by Gaidar Altayev, who, on behalf of the CPSU Central Committee, the Presidium of the USSR Supreme Soviet and the USSR Council of Ministers congratulated the members of the Academy and all Soviet medical workers. Among other things he said:

The USSR Academy of Sciences, which was set up in 1944, when the salvos of the Great Patriotic War were still rumbling, has over a historically short period traversed a long road to become one of the most

powerful centers of medical thought in the world. The Order of Lenin conferred on the Academy is a symbol of nationwide recognition of its efforts and scientific authority.

At all stages in the development of the Soviet society, medical scientists have been keeping pace with the times. Carrying out topical fundamental research, and giving ready responses to practical health care they have enriched and glorified the Soviet science with new discoveries. They have also given birth to a completely new branch of medical science — space medicine.

Dwelling on the peculiarities of the present stage in the development of medical science, the speaker made special mention of the setting up of a basically new type of medical aid in the form of specialized

medical services and unfolded the scope of the Academy's activities which have embraced the entire country.

The situation in the world today, noted G. Altayev, urgently demands the active contribution by all progressive, democratic and peace forces to the cause of preventing the threat of war and maintaining peace and security of nations. In the forefront of public anti-war activities are progressive medical figures, members of the International Physicians for the Prevention of Nuclear War.

He said that Expocon organizers up to 200 large and small exhibitions annually.

MOSCOW SIGHTS



Winter has come to Moscow.

NATO reiterates belief in arms race

Brussels. Undisguised appeals for further acceleration of the arms race were made at the just ended NATO Council session here, attended by Foreign Ministers of member-countries of this aggressive bloc.

According to a communiqué issued at the end of the session, deployment of the American first-strike nuclear missiles — Pershing-2s and cruise missiles — will go on as planned. The Greek and Danish delegates expressed their reservations on this statement to the document.

FOR A NUCLEAR-FREE EUROPE

Altogether, at an international conference for a nuclear-free Europe in the Greek capital were discussed the topical questions of disarmament and security on the continent and on the planet as a whole.

The three working groups, with representatives from nearly thirty European countries and the United States, had Canada taking part, were discussing urgent issues including the state of the prospects for the improvement of the political situation.

The winter NATO session, which concludes the "marathon" meetings of the leading organs of the alliance show that, hiding behind demagogic statements on the desire to improve East-West relations, NATO strategists intend to add new twists to the arms race and to produce new types of conventional and nuclear weapons with the aim of achieving a military superiority over the Warsaw Treaty organization.

The view of the deployment of new nuclear missiles, and also the future of a nuclear-free Europe, and trust and security on the continent. The work of the conference has shown that the overwhelming majority of the delegates to Athens realize full well that the nuclear threat emanates from the United States and NATO giving up détente and declaring a "crusade" against socialism.

He is in 1986

HOME NEWS

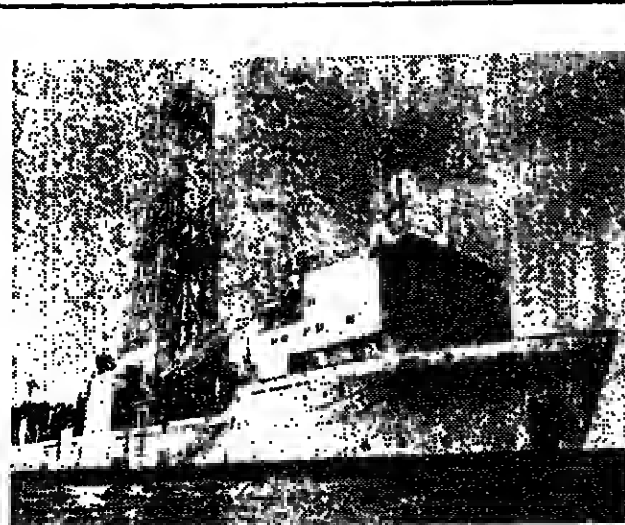
Round the Soviet Union

AN ALL-UNION SYMPOSIUM ON AUTOMATED ROBOTIC COMPLEXES FOR ASSEMBLING AGRICULTURAL GOODS AND EQUIPMENT WAS RECENTLY ORGANIZED IN TASHKENT, UZBEK CARIYAL. Apart from Soviet specialists it was attended by representatives from Bulgaria, Hungary, the GDR, Romania and Czechoslovakia.

INSTANT EVALUATION OF THE QUALITY OF AIR IN A MINE IS NOW POSSIBLE THANKS TO PHOTO-ELECTRIC DIGITAL DUST METERS DESIGNED IN THE UKRAINE. They have eliminated the need for daily analyses of the air sample which took much time to get from the depths of mines. The dust meter which has been successfully tested in mines will find application in many other industries where control of the state of the environment is essential.

ITS ORIGINAL APPEARANCE HAS BEEN RESTORED TO THE REMARKABLE MONUMENT OF THE RUSSIAN CULTURE—THE RIMSKY-KORSAKOV HOUSE-MUSEUM IN THE TOWN OF TIKVIN (LENINGRAD REGION) WHERE THE GREAT COMPOSER LIVED AS A CHILD. Restorers spent almost five years working on this memorial with exhibits numbering nearly ten thousand items connected with the name of the great musician and his epoch.

A NEW BREED OF SHEEP, ARAGATS, IS CROWNING SUCCESS OF MANY YEARS OF WORK BY ARMENIAN ANIMAL BREEDERS. In quality the Aragats surpasses other Soviet sheep bred for meat and wool. It gives up to 3.5 kilograms of long-wool fleece and is well adapted to mountainous areas and cold weather.



SHELF MINERAL RESOURCES OF THE ARCTIC

The drilling ship "Veselin Shashin" has been operating for nearly 4 years on the shelf of the Barents Sea (upper picture). Built at the shipyard of the Finnish firm Rauma Repola it helps do prospective drilling in dewatered commercial reserves of oil and gas on the shelf of the Arctic Sea.

The main distinguishing feature of this ship is that it is fitted with numerous sophisticated machines, apparatuses and instruments. Sufficient to enter the premises of the service whose task is to keep the ship in the drilling area by means of computer and special devices, to become convinced that it abounds in hydrocarbons. The same can be said of the drilling rig and the deep-water diving complex.

Naturally, these sophisticated mechanisms can operate tirelessly only by skilled people. Suffice it to say that out of the crew of 115 two-thirds have higher and secondary technical education. Even most specialists, engaged in subsidiary work, have secondary or technical secondary education plus service record. Ago qualification has also been established: people above the age of 23 may work on this drilling ship. With such a crew, says Viktor Kozlov, captain-director of "Veselin Shashin", it is easier to work because people grasp much quickly and easily the science of sea drilling in severe Arctic conditions. For the Soviet Union it is a new field of work. Thirty drilling foremen and their assistants work on the ship during each trip (people work by the watch method, i.e., 15 days in the sea, 15 days of rest on the shore). Drilling process is continuous. It stops only when the wind force is 23 mps. The cabin on the drilling rig is a model of comfort and technical equipment (see picture). Surrounded with panels, indicators, telephones and monitors, the working place differs little from that of an engineer of any highly mechanized enterprise.



Valery MITENEV

'Baby' hydroelectric station among giants

The Yenisei River in Siberia was recently dammed on the site of the future Main Hydroelectric Power Station. Compared with the Sayano-Shushenskaya station (design capacity—6.4 million kilowatts) which is being built 20 km upstream, the Main station (320,000 kW) is rather minor.

This station, though part of the power cascade, is not purely to generate electricity but to facilitate maximum power generation at the Sayano-Shushenskaya Hydroelectric Station. The Main station plays a counter-regulating role.

According to experts, the fluctuation of the water level, when turning on and switching off the world's biggest generating units of the Sayano-Shushenskaya station, will reach six metres. This will impede river transportation and may cause harm to coastal areas. The reservoir of the Main station will eliminate such fluctuations. Unlike the Sayano-Shushenskaya station, it will have a constant operation regime, rationally consuming accumulated water.

Turkmenia's cotton

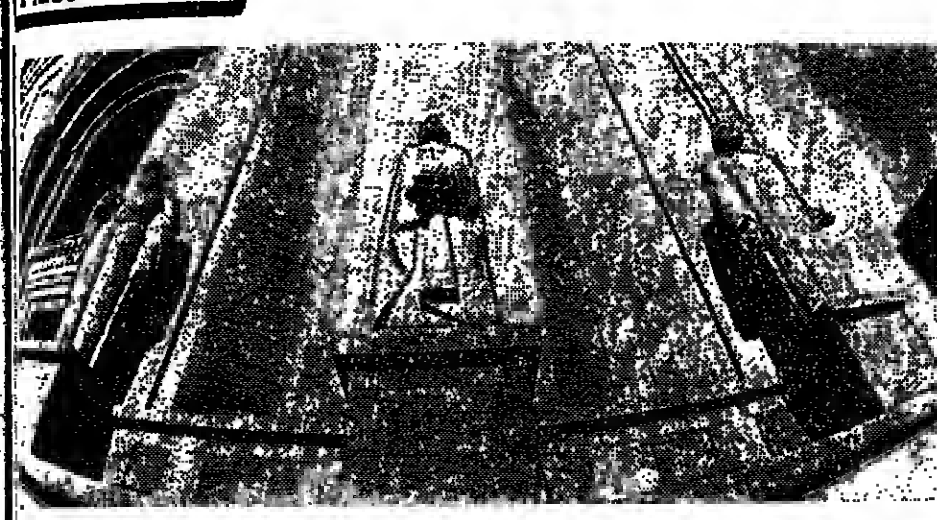
Nearly one-third of the cotton grown in Turkmenia (Central Asia) comes from the Farkhanga in the north of the republic. The harvest here is the highest. This season, for instance, Turkmenia picked more than 1,200,000 tonnes.

Planned irrigation of the Farkhanga Desert began in the last years of Soviet power. Today there are six well-developed irrigation networks there.

In the current five-year development plan (1981-85) another canal will feed water to the locality. The area under irrigation will almost double.

HOME NEWS

Places to visit



MATENADARAN

Books thought to be lost were returned recently to Matenadaran, the main depository of Armenian manuscripts in Yerevan, capital of Soviet Armenia. The oldest of them, "The Gospel", dated about 400 years, and the latest — "Comprehensive Latin-Armenian Dictionary" — is nearly 200 years. The oldest volumes made their last stretch of journey to Yerevan by air via Moscow.

Now did these 25 books and 27 manuscripts, stored long ago, get to the Byelorussian capital?

Science and technology

STRAWING AGE OF ICE

A probe developed by experts at Leningrad Mining Institute is making it possible to accurately determine the age of ice without extracting the core from the borehole.

A special unit on the drilling rig to collect the thickest layer of carbon dioxide in the layer of glaciers accumulated information about the age and climate of the ice. It is kept in the form of air bubbles, and cosmic particles of the ash of volcanic eruptions long before the appearance of man, spores and remains of extinct plants and animals. Each metre into the layers of the Antarctic is a new page in the history of life on the planet. The age of ice was determined by a thorough analysis of each millimetre of the ice core. But the results obtained were rather tentative. More accurate data are obtained from the analysis of carbon isotopes from ice layers.

In the new unit a mighty heater melts the ice in a present direction and the water formed is filtered. When the chamber is filled with gas, it gets automatically sealed and is then sent to the laboratory.

SECRET OF DOLPHINS' SLEEP

At the USSR State Committee for Inventions and Discoveries diplomas were recently awarded to some Soviet physiologists for unravelling the mystery behind the sleep of dolphins. The recipients, staff members of the Institute of the Evolutionary Morphology and Animal Ecology (USSR Academy of Sciences) discovered that the two hemispheres in the brain of the dolphin do not sleep at the same time, but one after another. When one hemisphere of the animal's brain is asleep the other is active, and then they change roles, says Doctor of Biology Alexander Supin, one of the authors of this work. The hemisphere which is awake ensures the mobility necessary for the dolphin's breathing.

Dolphins, it turns out, do not dream. Physiologically it was discovered that, unlike other higher animals and man, they do not have the two phases of sleep — the slow and the rapid — in which dreams occur. This is an important discovery since previously it was believed that a dream is a compulsory state of the brain, and the nervous system — a vital requirement of the organism. The dolphins have refuted all this.

Surprise awaited scientists in the study of the language of the dolphins. It turned out that, in communicating with each other they use several hundred different signals, approximately as many as a man uses words in everyday life. Their messages are arranged approximately in the same way as our speech, and the signals are something bigger in their meaning and information content than our lexical unit — the word. The dolphin signal is something between a word and a phrase.

INDIAN SCHOLAR IN MOSCOW

Tharevath Sankaran Kutty, Associate Professor of the Indian Statistical Institute, Calcutta, has arrived in Moscow to work at the Paleontological Institute of the USSR Academy of Sciences.

For me this visit is of great importance and interest, he told MNI. The development of Soviet paleontology (the study of fossil animals and plants) is far advanced. The factual material available in the USSR is unique and I am very glad of the opportunity to study it here.

This is my first visit to Moscow and I like the city very much. The difficulty lies in choosing where to go and what to see in the first place.

More schoolchildren to attend extended classes

A recent session of the USSR Supreme Soviet has adopted a law on the state plan for the economic and social development of the USSR in 1987. Among the twenty main indices in the plan envisaging the rate of growth, one reads: The number of schoolchildren in extended classes. Under the heading these are to increase by three per cent, which means that in the next school year, the number of schoolchildren attending extended classes will reach 13.3 million.

First and foremost, the advantages of such classes are obvious for families in which the grown-ups are at work on weekdays. Children attending the classes are taken care of by teachers. Then, they have their lunch, rest, take lessons, and spend their spare time usefully by participating in various activities.

This is also of advantage to the state, since extended classes afford mothers (especially those with children in junior school) the opportunity to dedicate more time to their work.

Also of importance in the teaching of children in extended classes which makes teachers see their pupils, talk to them, and help them develop their interests and abilities.

Soviet schoolchildren are maintained in the classes free of charge. Parents only pay for books, money for their lunches. In many cases, this expenditure is taken over by industries, the state or collective farms.

VIEWPOINT

USSR Food Programme: tangible results already

Lev VOSKRESENSKY

Here is some statistics. Annual milk production went up by 7.4 million tonnes, meat by 1.4 million tonnes, and eggs by 4,000 million pieces. Compared with the annual average for 1970-80 (milk 92.1; meat 15.5; eggs 72,700) and you will see that the increment is rather significant. However, the main thing is that the growth rates for these commodities are much higher than those for the population.

Fruit and vegetable yields have also gone up. On the whole, the two years after the Food Programme produced more agricultural products than the two years before the Programme by 20,000 million tonnes. It seems rather promising in absolute terms, too, 1983 and 1984 were the most agriculturally productive in the country's history.

These and other figures enabled the Central Committee of the CPSU to declare at its October 1984 Plenary Meeting that the level of consumption of meat, fish, fruit and vegetables had in the Soviet people become better, which is just what the Food Programme is after.

Will the positive trend in the USSR agroindustrial complex continue? Will the Soviet economy be able to go as fast and, moreover, to ensure more dynamism in its life?

The first years of the Food Programme have seen the success of the principle of economic self-sufficiency and advantage combined with material encouragement which produced good results even in hard years in agriculture. One more strong point of the Food Programme is the transition from predominantly administrative to economically motivated decision-making.

One more thing which deserves being mentioned is the collective contract. Unlike the so-called rent payment when earnings depend only on the volume of work done (this resembles in many ways the situation in industry), the contract makes payment a function of the quantity and quality of the goods produced. Units which work on the collective contract basis typically have a 20-25 per cent higher productivity and produce 10 to 20 and sometimes 30 per cent more at costs 10-15 per cent lower.

In 1984, more than half of the farmland in the country, including 30 per cent of potatoes and 23 per cent of vegetables, is tied to the collective contract basis. This fact was also conducive to ironing out the losses incurred by bad weather. Many hopes are now placed on the collective contract in agriculture.

Underwater core sampler

A special drilling installation was designed at the Leningrad Mining Institute for underwater core sampling. Hoisted on a cable the sampler can drill a borehole up to 30 metres deep and deliver the sample on board ship.

Any ship more than 500 tonnes can use the sampler which reduces human involvement to minimum. The new device is capable of drilling any rock down to the solid rock at water depths of up to 200 metres and, in future, down to several kilometres. A drill string set and replaceable core samplers are provided.

FROM THE SOVIET PRESS

MINI POPULATION CENSUS

A selective socio-demographic investigation of the Soviet population will be conducted from January 2 to 11. What is the aim of the mini-census? This point is dealt with in PRAVDA by Lev Volodarsky, Chief of the USSR Central Statistical Board.

Sociological and other investigations of various aspects of society's life are being regularly carried out in the country, notes the author. But they are often local in character. Exhaustive and accurate information about the number and composition of the population in provided by the USSR censuses. They are held approximately once in ten years. The results of the latest census of 1979 were widely used in drawing up the State Plan for the economic and social development of the USSR for the 11th Five-Year Plan period.

New and fresh information about the population assumes an increasing importance today. It helps carry out the programme aimed at improving the population's living standards and pursuing an effective demographic policy.

The forthcoming study is the first in its scope, stresses the author. It will be held throughout the country's territory, except the districts of the Extreme North and other almost inaccessible places or, for example, the remote settlements of the Pamirs, Tien Shan, with which communication becomes difficult in January.

The materials of the January investigation will provide detailed information about the composition of the population, its educational level, distribution of social groups throughout the Soviet territory and so on. The situation will become clear in terms of the labour resources of society, income of the population, birth rate and other factors.

All these data are needed by the state management and planning bodies, research institutions and will help solve many practical problems.

GAMMA-RAYS INCREASE HARVEST

At the Vyner Scientific-Production Association in Moldavia a gamma-ray source irradiates millions of grapevines a year. Thanks to this, vineyards yield bigger harvests while labour productivity of people engaged in grafting has grown 25 times. Also in Uzbekistan researchers have designed and put into operation an experimental plant which irradiates trays with eggs in incubators. Irradiation stimulates yields additionally thousands of chickens. Grain is cleared of pests of the elevator of Odessa port with the help of ionizing irradiation.

Radiation biotechnology is being increasingly used in the national economy. In an article published in IZVESTIA Prof. Aleksandra Kudryashova writes about the opportunities it affords today.

Small doses of gamma-radiation, notes the author, stimulates in seeds a fuller manifestation of their genetic programme. As a result, the yield of grain and leguminous crops increases by 10-20 per cent and vegetables by almost a third. Gamma-rays are also used in speeding up the ripening of radish and cabbage.

As is generally known, impact of the rays on the genetic apparatus of a cell may cause mutation — deviation from material sample. The mutations which are most useful to man are selected. Thus, Soviet scientists developed a new wheat variety — Novosibirskaya-67. Obshy barley, varieties of beans, soybeans, buckwheat and dwarf apple trees, Georgia has developed new two varieties — more aromatic and utterly different from other brands. Other countries willingly buy this too.

'YOUTH ELIXIR' MAY BE FOUND?

In the hotly post such great minds as Hippocrates and Aristotle both wrecked their brains over recipes to make the human body younger, yet only the latest achievements in medicine, biology, and other contiguous disciplines have given us the possibility of studying this problem in detail. The Institute of Gerontology established in this country twenty-five years ago, is carrying out complex studies into the biological, physiological and medical aspects of ageing, as well as the broad range of social research involved. writes the newspaper SOVIETSKAYA KULTURA. Besides, these problems are studied more than 120 scientific research and medical institutes. All these efforts are coordinated by the scientific council on gerontology and geriatrics of the USSR Academy of Medical Sciences. A complex scientific programme, "Prolongation of Life", has been worked out with the task of determining the main mechanisms of ageing, clarification of the appearance of pathological processes in the human body and searching for ways of increasing median life-span.

In this case, it is a matter of prolonging the lifespan of a species, the newspaper notes. It has been calculated that even man's final victory over his mortal enemies — cold-viral and cancer diseases and various injuries — will add only ten to twelve years to his life-span. Is this satisfying? That is why research is being conducted into the possibility of increasing the years of man as a biological species.

Scientists of all times have attempted to develop "youth elixir". These attempts continue — and not without success. A number of geriatric medicines which decontaminate the process of ageing of cells have been developed by elite members of the Institute of Gerontology. There are also interesting achievements by the Institute of Chemical Physics and of the Institute of Biophysics of the USSR Academy of Sciences.

EVACUATING ANCIENT SANCTUARY

Exports in Tuva (an autonomous republic in Siberia bordering Mongolia) and researchers of the Institute of Archaeology of the USSR Academy of Sciences have carried out a unique operation — evacuation of stone blocks with drawings by ancient artists from the site of the Soyano-Shushenskaya Hydroelectric Power Station reservoir. The report was published in the newspaper SOVIETSKAYA ROSSIYA.

These strange carvings on boulders and rocks, stretching like mountain ranges along the left bank of the Yenisei River, were discovered in 1956 by the main geological expedition which was looking for a place to build the Sayano-Shushenskaya Hydroelectric Power Station. Thus the ancient sanctuary — was the site of the old city of Mugur-Sorgol — was discovered. On its stone steps there were numerous petroglyphs by means of which the artists of antiquity conveyed their ideas about the world. Among the petroglyphs of Mugur-Sorgol there were about 200 masks and nearly 9,000 signs in the forms of circles, dots, and other figures. The report was published in the newspaper SOVIETSKAYA ROSSIYA.

The aim of investigations carried out by experts was first to make various life-size copies of petroglyphs. Then taking their pictures with photo and cine-camera, their original site before the flooding of Mugur-Sorgol. However, since the development of technology has made a great headway and it was decided to evacuate the most valuable archaeological samples of rock paintings.

Today it has become possible to move out and store for long evacuation 50 stone samples weighing up to eight tonnes. A special road was laid in the mountains to transport the petroglyphs.

Archaeological investigations and work on the evacuation of some petroglyphs will continue in 1985.

АЭРОФЛОТ

Fly in comfort with Aeroflot to the 'Russian Winter' Arts Festival!

For further information contact your nearest Aeroflot or Intourist office.

Fly Aeroflot!

